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Letter from Charles R. Clemson to E. M. Landers, Jr., 1979 April 27

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Copy from Dr. Landers
for Thomas G. Clemson
Papers.

CHARLES R. CLEMSON
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LANCASTER, PA. 17603
717 394-8490

27 April 1979

E. M. Landers, Jr.
Social Science Department
Clemson University
Clemson, S. C. 29631

Dear Mr. Landers:

I owe you an apology that you do not know about!

It has been fourteen months since I read your correspondence to the Lancaster County Historical Society, indicating that you had been following up all the persons and places named in Floride Clemson's diary; and made a note to write to you, just after a California Clemson daughter had written of her captivation by Floride's diary and poems, but before I had seen "A Rebel Came Home".

To dispose of the excuse-making: I was just beginning to receive the long-built history files and findings and assume the task of continuing Clemson genealogical research for much that remains unanswered; and as you will appreciate, every piece of history information seems to convey two or more unanswered questions. About 1500 Clemson-history working hours seem to have gone by, until this letter on this vacation day from my work with RCA Corp.

I am, of course, wondering if your work has led to any kind of publication or typescript of which a copy could be obtained, or shared, by Clemson history associates, through me. A number, of course, will be much interested in what you found and wrote. And it should also be in archives deposited from here.

Something of the extent and limitations of Clemson history pursuits as of 1978 appear in my 12-page 1978 Report to Clemson History Associates, of which your University Library has received a copy that was furnished to the public relations director by Daniel R. Clemson, through their contacts in recent years. (The latest significant event was receiving this week photocopies of the Mormon computer file index entries of all Clemson christenings in the three most likely of five English Midlands counties, and parishes with surviving records available to date. That only increased the likelihood that James Clemson of Tettenhall, born 1654, was James Clemson of Pennsylvania by 1699; expected to continue when I obtain the same for the other two counties, to supplement what was researched years ago.)

Of course, if your work is not finished, and there is anything that I might be able to provide, now or in the course of the continuing work, I hope you will let me know of it.

I do have a question on which you can comment helpfully, since I am not familiar with things at Clemson University. I have here a Thomas Green Clemson little diary and account book, which he recorded intermittently in Europe during some years from 1832 on.* Although my uncle who received it years ago, and provided it for the archives-building here, will be happier with it here at present, it should eventually come to Clemson University. Which do you suggest is the repository there that should receive it? (Unfortunately, most of the entries that I have read and deciphered are mundane travel entries; however, several

(4" x 6" x 1/2")

of his observations, and a bit of philosophy in a draft of a letter home, were of interest in the portion I scanned.) The painstaking interest indicated by your L.C.H.S. correspondence made it seem that your comment on this should be invited.

..... Inasmuch as the arrival of the postman during this writing brought a letter from St. John's Episcopal Church at Concord, commenting on TGC's brother, here are extracts from the beginning and end of the sheet:

"You are right, the first books of the church prior to 1727 have never been found."

"Mr. [John B.] Clemson added the following note in his own handwriting to the minutes of May 20th, 1834: -- 'The Church at this time is in greater prosperity than has been for many years before.' Services from that date were held twice each month."

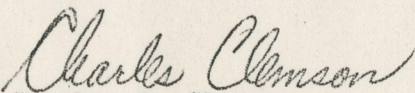
[Edward W. Battin, Rector]

If that reference skips one step: Friends' records in Philadelphia were closed out, and now all are librated by the Friends Historical Society at Swarthmore, instead of only Hicksite-plus. From there, reaffirmation came last month that the meeting records of Chichester, formed 1684; and parent Concord Monthly Meeting, very close to the above St. John's and to James Clemson's 1710-1717 home; are complete, and contain no Clemson entries until transfers in the 1770's. I assume you are familiar with the conflicting attributions regarding the first James Clemson. We may find this year that the 19th century reference to St. John's Episcopal of Northern Liberties (Philadelphia) was to predecessor-congregation records of James' death and burial, existing there.

..... The timing coincidence of the letter arrival today would have made it unnatural not to mention, while this sheet was in the typewriter.

Although a 1980 reply would be fair enough, to a letter that I wanted to send you last year, the reason a ready reply envelope is enclosed today is simply to make it easier for you to insert a reply when you read this.

Very sincerely yours,


Charles R. Clemson

(James IV;
5 generations, Clemsons' Island;
X. C.R.C.)
(This ancestral county has only one
"Clemson" descendant, now, although
very many Clemson descendants.)